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The McGill Daily

Elvis' Hawai'ian vacation since 1911

Getting ready for the second round

Can a shaken health care system handle more cuts?

by D'Arcy Doherty

Still waiting for the full effects of the first round of budget cuts last year, Québec's health care sector may be in for another bout.

A report released by *La Presse* on September 6 cited an anonymous source as stating that the Québec Ministry of Health was contemplating cuts in the area of $900 million for the 1997-1998 fiscal year — the equivalent of a third of the Montréal Region's annual health care budget

This comes at a time when the jury is still out on whether the health care sector can handle the massive cuts made to the system less than a year ago.

PQ opens the veins of health care yet again

DAILY PHOTO BY JEFF CORMIER

Last year, Health Minister Jean Rochon eliminated $190 million from his ministry's budget, in a move to gear Québec toward increased at-home care.

The speed of implementation has meant that in less than a year, five hospitals have closed, many health care workers are unemployed and the responsibility of health services has been largely shifted to CLSCs (Québec's community health centres).

The prospect of cuts of up to $900 million could throw a system already in transition, into turmoil.

According to Sheri McLeod, volunteer co-ordinator for the Senior Citizens Council of NDG, that amount of cuts will "require some creative economics."

She noted that with further cuts, outpatient care could not maintain any of its integrity.

And for Mirielle Le Masson, programme consultant of the Federation of CLSCs, further cuts are a cause of worry due to the possibility of greater influxes of patients. "We (the CLSCs) are anxious to know what is in store," she commented.

Anxiety is already a prevalent feeling for many dealing with the present changes.

While Montréal's Regional Board of Health says that Minister Rochon's changes are going well, others do not agree.

Laurie Desjardins, spokesperson for the Board cited that 65 to 100% of full time staff (nurses and social workers) have been relocated to CLSCs and community hospitals. Moreover, she added, last year's cuts will allow for a $70 million reinvestment in CLSCs by March 1997, and for $155 million in three years time.

But according to Jeff Begely of the Federation des Affaires Sociales (FAS) — the union representing health care workers — the job situation is not that rosy. He explained that last year's cuts have put 25% of health care employees out of work, while another 25% have the distinction of being put on replacement lists.

In a recent programme on CBC *Newswatch*, those on replacement lists complained that the jobs they are offered are not in their field of specialisation or do not give an adequate amount of working hours.

And while the Regional Board and the federation of CLSCs are trying to keep the quality of health care services intact, its not easy.

Le Masson explained that in order to handle the larger patient load , Québec's 45 CLSCs have created *Protocols* or contracts with 22 Québec hospitals to share information, personnel, drugs and equipment.

And in order to gauge Quebecers' satisfaction with the various types of health services, the Board is using its Programme d' amélioration continuer de la qualité de service, which was created in 1994.

"The Board decided to make the citizen the ultimate decider of what they regard as qualitative in the health sector," explained Ron McNeil an Executive Adviser to the Programme.

The most common problems McNeil declared, "have to do with waiting time and how patients are treated." He said these problems can be remedied by better scheduling, placing televisions in waiting rooms and encouraging health officials to be more affable.

Others believe the problems facing the health care system require less cosmetic solutions. The loss of the security of a hospital bed worries many people, particularly the elderly.

Minister Rochon's plans have led to a lot of "gaps and delays in the service at CLSCs, and a general sense of confusion among patients." McLeod observed.

"Believe only 50% of what

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Students to take to the streets

CFS plans another national day of action for October

by Stella Tzintzis

Montréal (CUP) — Canada's largest student organisation is planning a national day of action in late October as part of their campaign against government cutbacks to post-secondary education.

"We need to send a strong message to the government that students across Canada are taking the fight against the cuts one step further, and that we will not be divided," said Brad Lavigne, national chair of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Lavigne said another protest like last February's day of action, which involved close to 40,000 students across the country, is a crucial instrument for change.

According to Lavigne, last February's protest resulted in the government establishing a minimum payment for its controversial Canadian Health and Social Transfer, which lumps together all federal spending on social assistance into one block transfer payment to the provinces.

Until last year, the federal government provided separate payments to support those services it deemed most important, namely education, health care and social programs like Welfare. But in April 1995, it not only lumped those subsidies together in the new CHST, but cut the total transfer payment by $7 billion.

To make matters worse, Ottawa then announced that it would continue to cut the CHST, giving less and less money to its health care, education and social programs until it eliminated the payments altogether.

But in 1996, the government agreed to guarantee a minimum cash payment for the CHST — a feat Lavigne attributes to the resistance of protesters like the students who marched last February.

"We still got hurt by the 1996 budget, but we were able to minimise that hurt," explained Lavigne. And the student federation says it won't stop there.

This year the CFS is proposing a Post-Secondary Education Act that would safeguard standards of education. In addition to guaranteeing portability of credits and student aid, the Act would ensure that accessibility to post-secondary education is maintained and tuition fees not raised.

"This will enable us to have some insurance [if another] Mike Harris or Ralph Klein gets elected," he said.

Sarah Schmidt, a former councillor on McGill's Post-Graduate Students' Society, which is a member of the CFS, said protests like the one planned for October play an important role in dispelling the misconception that cutting social spending is an effective way to lower Canada's deficit.

"Spending on social programs is not the cause of the deficit," said Schmidt, explaining that the real culprit is tax breaks granted to wealthy corporations like Bell Canada, which alone has amassed $2 billion in deferred taxes that it will never have to pay.

Until the government decides to tap these sources of potential revenues, that could close the present gap between spending and revenues and support the social programs that many Canadians would like to maintain, Schmidt says she will support the idea of an education act.

"We need legislation," said Schmidt, "we need something in place to hold on to pan-Canadian standards."

— Additional reporting by Robin Perelle

EXPERIENCE JAPAN!

The JET Programme

You are invited to attend an information session about the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. It will be held at McGill University by the Consulate General of Japan in Montreal in cooperation with McGill's Career and Placement Service. Representatives from the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) Tokyo will speak as will [illegible]

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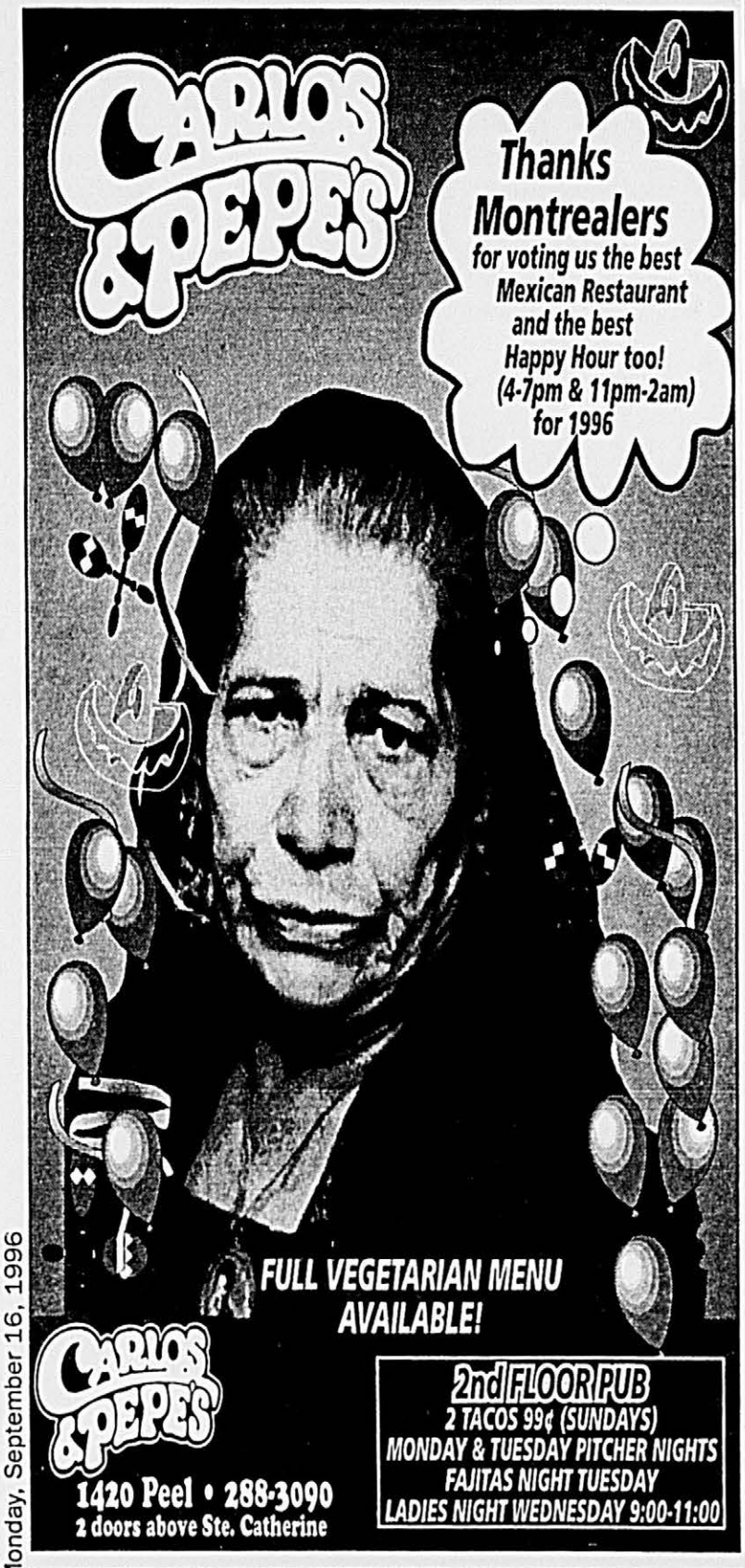

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the CLSCs tell you," declared Santo Arcoragi spokesman for the Coalition for Quebec Seniors(CQS).

"The CLSCs do not have that much funds and personnel available and seniors are in a period of panic," Arcoragi continued. Even more alarming for seniors is the prospect that the at-home services of the CLSCs could become privatised.

McLeod cites that there is an alarming trend towards placing the burden of cuts on the elderly.

Earlier this year, the health ministry announced Bill 33 which forces 25% of the cost of prescription medicine to be covered by the user as of January 1, 1997.

For Arcoragi, one of the major rationales for this Bill was to get seniors (who use prescription drugs most) to pay more out of their pocket. "The reality is that many seniors cannot eat properly, pay rent *and* pay drug costs, three meals a day must become one, " he said.

The general feeling in the medical community is that the move to at-home care is a positive one, if done correctly.

"We are positive about the future of nursing and where health care is going," explained Laurie Gottlieb, Director of Nursing at McGill University. McGill nursing graduates are becoming a hot commodity in Québec because of their ability to provide multidisciplinary care to outpatients, Gottlieb continued.

"Health care downsizing is based on more than just economic considerations," stated Gottlieb, "there has been a fundamental shift towards the belief that patients get better, quicker, when at the home." Gottlieb explained.

However, the speed of the changes and the extent of the cutbacks has left many confused. Patients remain perplexed on how to receive the services they once had in hospitals. This has organisations like the FAS and CQS concerned.

When the public sector fails to adequately provide a service, private agencies begin to take over, and this would be "a disaster", concluded Begely.

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One voice is not enough

STUDENTS TO ATTEMPT TO NEUTRALISE CORPORATE VOICE OF BOG

by Samana Siddiqui

Money and power. At McGill's Board of Governors, it seems like the first determines the latter.

That's why Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) President Chris Carter has started a campaign to increase student representation on the university's highest decision-making body. With 45 voting members, mostly from the business community, the Board of Governors (BoG) is primarily concerned with the university's budget.

However, there is only one person representing McGill's entire undergraduate population of over 16,000 students.

Carter said the SSMU intends to put forward a motion to the BoG this semester to amend the statutes which define the BoG's membership. The motion's approval would result in four more undergraduate representatives for BoG.

"Hopefully the Board of Governors should be open to this motion," he said, adding that the SSMU will start off this campaign by "trying to do it through the process." Carter said if this does not work, the SSMU will use a more "hardball approach" to increase representation.

Carter criticised the highly corporate composition of the board. the largest contingency of which are business exucutives.

"It's so out of touch with the McGill community," he said, explaining that many of these business people are more preoccupied with business matters than student concerns. "They're coming in with a completely different mindset."

Carter said he plans to use economic arguments to push for more representation, like stressing the financial contribution undergraduate students make to McGill through tuition and user fees.

"I think [the BoG is] very money/cents/revenue oriented," he said. "Unfortunately, if we want to get anywhere in this environment, we have to speak their language."

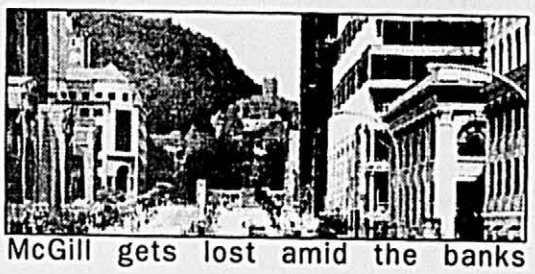
In the past, students have had a hard time convincing the BoG to change fiscal policies. In 1986, when McGill was investing money in companies tied to apartheid-era South Africa, students successfully lobbied, although with great difficulty, to get the university to withdraw some of its investments.

Jonathan Carruthers, last year's president of the Concordia Student Union (CSU), believes the faculty-based system of representation has worked for Concordia University. The CSU represents undergraduate Arts and Science students.

For at least 20 years, Concordia has had one undergraduate student representative for each of its four faculties: Arts and Science, Fine Arts, Commerce and Administration, and Engineering and Computer Science. There is also one student representative for graduate students.

Concordia's Board of Governors is similar to McGill's, composed of business people, members of the community, faculty and administrators, along with its five student representatives.

Apart from being president of the CSU, Carruthers was a representative for undergraduate Fine Arts students last year and the year before on Concordia's Board of Governors.



McGill gets lost amid the banks

"It's really impossible for one person to know all aspects of the needs of students," he said, explaining that students from different faculties are "coming from an entirely different academic culture."

"It's a completely different dynamic in terms of the relationship you have with your teacher, the resources that are needed, the interaction that must occur between students...therefore the needs and potential resources are different."

"You can't compare test tubes to canvasses," he added.

Carruthers said that having undergraduate student representation has not only resulted in students having a voice on a decision-making body; it has also been a place to present student-initiated ideas and projects.

"BoG is a great place to lobby for things and also a great way to make contacts with the external community for the student union," he said, noting the business and arts communities as examples.

As well, greater student representation led to more contact between the university's administration and the student body.

"The Board saw the face of the student," said Carruthers. "The Board of Governors needs that contact with students so they can put a face to the people they're affecting change on."

Brief

Hawai'ians vote "'ae" to decide future

After more than a century, Hawai'i may soon be Hawai'ian once again.

By an overwhelming margin, the descendants of the original Hawai'ians have voted to convene a constitutional assembly to determine the fate of the islands. That gathering may end up restoring the Kingdom of Hawai'i and proclaiming the current U.S. state an independent country.

"The path to rebuilding a sovereign Hawai'ian Nation is before us; the opportunity to uplift our people and improve all of their lives appears clearer," said Linda McKenzie, an organiser of the vote.

Of the over 30,000 ballots, cast by mail over a one month period, over 20,000 voted 'ae, or "yes".

Hawai'i was independent until 1893, when an American invasion force helped install a regime of American residents as the 'legitimate government' of Hawai'i. The new group abolished the monarchy, proclaiming themselves rightful rulers, and helped bring about the annexation of the islands to the United States.

The protests of the monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani, went unheeded, and soon the islands were firmly in control of American military and commercial interests.

Since then, the native Hawai'ians have slowly been pushed from their land in favour of naval bases, resort hotels and golf courses. Now, native Hawai'ians are largely strangers on their own lands. Most are barred entry to the lush tourist resorts and military compounds except as cheap labour.

As well, many native Hawai'ians despise the fact that their culture and customs have only been allowed to continue as tourist trinkets — cheap flowers garlanded around countless necks at airports.

Decades of pressure from native Hawai'ians, including attempts to dissuade tourists from coming to the islands, helped convince the government to allow — and recognise — the vote.

The referendum came as the result of two groundbreaking pieces of legislation — one passed by the Hawai'ian state legislature, and a companion bill that went through the American Congress.

In early 1993, the Hawai'ian legislature approved a motion that set up the referendum, in the hope that the process would "address the historical injustice and to begin the formation of a government" chosen by native Hawai'ians, according to McKenzie. The U.S. house passed a similar act that apologised for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

— *M-J Milloy*

NEXT TARGET: HOUSING

THE PQ'S LATEST ATTACK ON SOCIAL PROGRAMMES

by Samana Siddiqui

Six-year old Mickael Dupuis Thibodeau has had less to eat in his lunch box since he began first grade two weeks ago. That's because his mother, Nancy Dupuis, a welfare recipient, is one of the targets of the Parti Québécois government's cuts to social programmes.

The 29 year old single mother found it difficult this month to pay the rent and shell out enough money for food for herself, Mickael and her three year old daughter Katy, after the government started cutting rental subsidies to welfare recipients Sept. 1.

"The only thing we can do with the little they give us, if we are honest, is pay our rent, and with the rest of the money, we try to eat," she said. "I never thought that one day, I would have a hard time putting food in my fridge."

Dupuis has been on welfare since October last year. To cope with the subsidy cut, she moved into a smaller apartment in Varennes on September 1. She will now pay $60 less than what she paid in her larger apartment in Boucherville.

But cutting rental subsidies could be only one of the methods the government will use to show Quebecers that housing is not sacred when it comes to reaching its goal of a zero deficit for the province. The government is also considering targeting social housing.

This possible move was revealed in a press conference Tuesday, after a confidential discussion paper proposing the revamping of Québec's social housing system obtained by *Canadian Press*.

The paper's proposals are presently being discussed by a cabinet committee on social development. The document was signed in August by the province's Municipal Affairs Minister, Rémy Trudel, who is responsible for housing.

The changes, if implemented, will affect 65,000 tenants of low cost housing, as well as 14,000 cooperative and nonprofit housing units, and 6,000 homes that benefit from rental supplements.

One proposal in the document is to raise rents in low cost housing units by up to five per cent starting July 1, 1997.

Presently, tenants of low cost housing units pay 25% of their revenue towards rent. If this proposal is implemented, Trudel and his office say that tenants would have to pay up to 30% of their incomes.

"In Ontario, it's 30%," said Renée-Claude Boisvin, Trudel's press attaché. "We (Québec) are at 25 %". She added that the five per cent increase would be gradual. "We're talking about increasing the rent by one per cent over a period of five years," she said.

But a coalition of four provincial social housing advocacy groups disagrees. Monique Blanchet from la Confederation québécoise des cooperatives d'habitation, said the increase will be greater than that. "In the document, it's more than five per cent for some families," she said, adding that the rate goes up to 33% and 40% for some households.

The document illustrates the increase in the following way: a single person will see his or her rent increase from $196 to $292; a single elderly person will see rent increase from $259 to $292; for a single parent family, the increase could go from $245 to $356.

Another proposal in the document is to abolish the provincial real estate tax refund, worth up to $514 a year to 724,000 low income and lower-middle-income households. By abolishing this tax refund, the government hopes to collect $133 million per year, which it intends to reallocate into a revitalisation programme of old districts.

While this may help some municipalities in developing new social housing units, not all developers are pleased.

Carmen Gibb, part of l'Association des groupes de ressources techniques du Québec, which develops housing units and is also a part of the coalition, said this proposal attempts to pit housing groups against each other.

"They're [the government] trying to muscle the developers by saying we're going to give you a little candy, we're going to do development," she said. "They'd like our group to say we're glad, we're proud. We're not because they're making the people with whom we've worked with for the past 20 years poorer.

Members of the coalition think Québec Premier Lucien Bouchard is acting like Ontario premier Mike Harris, now notorious for his cuts to the province's social programmes, thereby breaking his promise.

"People feel they have been betrayed because during the referendum, Mr. Bouchard promised that Québec will never act like Ontario, and now, in these governmental proposals, we see that he was inspired by the Ontario experience," said Robert Pilon of la Federation des locataires d'habitations à loyer modique du Québec, which is also part of the coalition.

The coalition does not yet have a defined action plan. According to Gibb, the groups will now go back to their respective members and inform them about the proposed changes to social housing. After this, they will decide on further action.

MCGILL DAILY FILE PHOTO

Québec social housing takes a beating

Atlantic AIDS patie

by David Cochrane

St. John's, Nfld. (CUP) — At a recent AIDS protest in Nova Scotia, activist Janet Connors held up a ringing alarm clock and said it was time for Atlantic Canada to wake up to the problems of people with HIV and AIDS.

And not without good reason. For many people in Newfoundland, it must feel as though the province is in a stupor.

Greg Brace is one of those people. He has been HIV positive for 23 years, and has spent the last two living in Newfoundland, where he moved from British Columbia when his partner Rick began to get seriously ill with complications resulting from AIDS and wanted to be close to his family.

Since then, Brace has had to deal with the frustration of seeking treatment in a province which lacks the resources to effectively care for people with AIDS, as well as the loss of his partner, who died of kidney failure brought about by AIDS this March.

Brace says that doctors in Newfoundland show a lack of compassion when dealing with AIDS patients, a fact that became painfully obvious when Rick was brought to the hospital.

"We asked that Rick not be sedated until his family could see him," Brace said. "But they went ahead and did it anyway. We never even got to say goodbye."

Brace said this kind of treatment is unheard of elsewhere, and that the move to Newfoundland shortened Rick's life because of the province's low-quality AIDS care.

"I've never seen anything like this," Brace said. "I've been in hospitals in Vancouver... [and] Toronto and this is ridiculous."

Although Newfoundland has 157 HIV-positive patients — a number that represents only those individuals who seek care — it only has one Infectious Disease (ID) clinic, with one specialist and one nursing coordinator.

LACK OF RESOURCES

Like Brace, other Atlantic Canadians concerned about AIDS are dissatisfied.

In a 1995 proposal for an HIV program, Newfoundland ID specialist Dr. Ian Bowmer wrote, "We presently participate in two general medicine afternoon clinics a week, which is not adequate. One of the main concerns and complaints of our patient population is the waiting time to see their specialist — which can be up to four hours — and the crowded conditions of the whole Outpatient Department.

"Not only is their concern related to confidentiality, but the exposure to large groups of people, especially if they have colds and flues, is detrimental to the well-being of our patients."

While AIDS treatment facilities in other Atlantic provinces are better, they are still far behind those in cities like Toronto or Vancouver.

"Compared to other large urban centres we probably have a little less of everything, whether it is home care or treatment," said Robert Allan, executive director of the Nova Scotia AIDS coalition.

Aside from the lack of resources, the availability of new drugs is a major problem on the east coast. The current trend in HIV/AIDS treatment is combination therapy, in which the patient is given a

Searching for a focus

Corporate Canada targeted in NDP leader's speech

by Mark Ratner

In an effort to regain popular support, the Federal New Democratic Party (NDP) has chosen tax equity to take the burden off of the middle class as a main issue to attract voters back to the party. This theme was evident in a speech given by new party leader Alexa McDonough at the September 6 meeting of the party's council in Montréal.

"I look forward with great enthusiasm to waging the political fight of our lives," McDonough declared, citing that "In Canada today, we live in a house deeply divided on economic lines. A house where the division between upstairs and downstairs is growing rapidly."

"There are record corporate and bank profits at a time of near record unemployment," she added.

In a speech that concentrated mainly on economic concerns, McDonough was deeply critical of economic policies of the other federal political parties. She questioned the priorities of the current Liberal government of Jean Chrétien, comparing them with the former Conservative government of Brian Mulroney.

"Jean Chretien may be a nice guy, but he listens to the same people that Brian Mulroney listened to. The biggest change after the last election was the name on the Prime Minister's place card at the corporate dinner table," she criticised.

She went on to say that "too many Liberal politicians in Ottawa these days think that only the wealthy and big corporations really matter."

McDonough also attacked the current Liberal plan to harmonise the Goods and Services tax (GST) with provincial taxes. In the last federal election, the Liberals promised to revoke the unpopular tax, but earlier this year, decided that it would be more viable to retain it, in a modified form.

McDonough predicted that the new plan would be "even worse" than the current tax. "The finance minister and this government are hell bent to impose a harmonised GST that will cost middle class and working families 6 billion dollars more in taxes."

In spite of the indictement of Liberal and Conservative policies, McDonough's speech lacked a clear alternative.

Nor did the speech give much indication of how the NDP plans to continue their traditional commitment to ensuring a strong social safety net.

The importance of funding for education and medicare were only briefly discussed during the speech.

Some delegates, however, did not seem to mind. "She is trying to make clear links between policies and economics" explained Judy Randall, party policy coordinator.

The speech also lacked a strong view on the status of Québec in Canada. Speaking in French, McDonough affirmed the NDP's support of Québec self determination but did not go further.

Randall wasn't concerned by the fact that Québec was touched on so briefly, saying that the implementation of general NDP policies would be good for all Canadians, including sovereignty supporters in Québec. Francois Côté, NDP councillor for Québec, offered a more precise explanation of why the sovereignty issue wasn't addressed.

He explained that the party is still forming a policy regarding Québec. He said that for McDonough it would be "difficult to discuss as we are brainstorming, looking for more input." However, he stressed the importance for a clear NDP policy toward Québec, saying that "the policy should be renewed and updated."

With public visibility floundering, the party desperately needs to regain official status in the House of Commons. This will only be accomplished by winning at least 12 seats in the next general election. Currently, nine NDP members reside in the House.

Recognising this disparity, McDonough stressed the need to reach out to all regions of the country. She noted that in western Canada, many former NDP voters have been wooed by the Reform Party. She said that the NDP must reach out to these middle class voters, calling Reform "a party of extremism, out of touch with Canadians."

But at the same time the NDP also is a party is looking to get in touch with its supporters. The question is, is McDonough the one to do it? So far McDonough has not proven to be the visible leader that will speak out and regain lost voters. As apparent in the speech, her speaking style is laboured at times, and without holding a seat in the House of Commons, her national profile is low.

tients denied good care

mixture of two drugs, one of which is usually AZT.

DRUGS NOT PROVIDED

But Brace is intolerant to AZT; the drug gives him severe headaches and makes him violently ill. Instead, Brace wanted to try a treatment involving D4T, a relatively new drug that has been available in British Columbia for over a year. It is not available in Newfoundland because of the slow moving bureaucracy of the province's medical ethics board.

Even if the drug was available, it wouldn't be covered by Medicare in Newfoundland or Nova Scotia, and the cost of one year of treatment with D4T averages between $4,000 and $6,000 — money most AIDS patients simply don't have.

For many people with HIV/AIDS, provinces like British Columbia offer the best hope for receiving adequate care. In the early 1990s a group of doctors proposed to the BC minister of health that they establish the Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS Research at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

The Centre offers a province-wide drug treatment program that provides patients with drugs, free of charge, provided they meet certain treatment requirements.

While it is expensive to set up a centre like this, advocates say the cost can be justified.

"We believe that in the long run these drugs will prove to be cost-effective because it will keep people out of hospitals and more productive," said Dr. Martin Schecter of the Centre.

Since 1993, B.C. has had 3,000 people in its AIDS treatment program. There are currently 1,700 people receiving treatment, with 20 to 30 doctors providing most of the care; an additional 400 physicians treat at least one person on a regular basis.

The province has led the way in providing treatment for its patients, showing a willingness to act on results from short-term surrogate tests, rather than wait for the more definitive and long-term clinical test.

"The question is: 'Do you wait until the definitive evidence comes from clinical studies or do you take that leap of faith?'" Schecter said.

Brace says this philosophy offers people with HIV/AIDS their best hope. This month, he left Newfoundland and moved back to Vancouver, ending a two-year odyssey of pain and frustration.

He has lost 51% of his breathing capacity and will have to survive on a $600 welfare cheque for three months until he is eligible for assistance from the B.C. government. But Greg says that the compassion and treatment he will receive will far outweigh the difficulties he will have to overcome.

"I have to go," he said. "It is the best chance I have to get the treatment I need."

Supplies.

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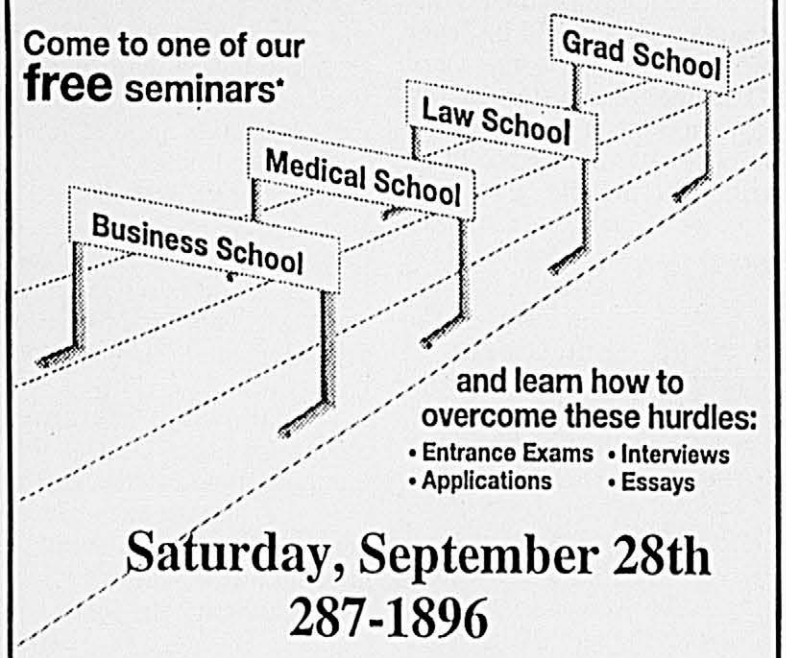

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Still waiting...

Sexual harassment policy still a no go

by Martha MacDonald

It has been 10 years since McGill's first attempted to introduce a comprehensive sexual harassment policy, and it looks like it could be 10 more before the university has one that works.

The university will have a full policy only after a new "disciplinary procedures policy" becomes official and the sexual harassment policy is revised for conflicts.

To correct procedural weaknesses in McGill's 10 year old sexual harassment policy, the McGill Association of University Teachers (MAUT) and McGill lawyers, including Raynald Mercille, have developed a new disciplinary procedures policy. Five years in the making, the new policy still must clear four separate levels of bureaucracy before becoming official.

Senate will then revise the sexual harassment policy to ensure the disciplinary procedures work with it.

Jacob Kalff, president of the MAUT, feels the discussion "has gone on far too long." He says MAUT is "really keen to get this out of the way. We will be very happy if [the disciplinary procedures policy] is passed through [Senate this fall]."

To assist survivors who file a complaint, members of the Sexual Assault Centre created an Accompaniment Team last year. Trained volunteers educate themselves on McGill's sexual violence policies to offer assistance to survivors navigating through the bureaucracy.

According to Stephanie Dutrizac, coordinator of the Accompaniment Team, the McGill administration shows a "lack of sensitivity toward survivors." She explains, "We created the Accompaniment Team in response to the inadequacies of the system."

She feels the absence of a comprehensive sexual harassment policy "is a reflection of the university. It simply doesn't want to deal with [sexual violence]."

If the disciplinary procedures policy is not on the Senate agenda for the fall, Don McGowan, Vice President of Internal Affairs for the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) promises to "use procedural rules to get it there."

However, since McGill lawyers are still writing the document, it may not be ready for Senate this fall.

According to McGowan, "concerns of professors were taken more seriously than student concerns" during the development of the new procedures. Part of the problem, McGowan contends, is that nobody agrees on what the administration wanted.

"Sexual harassment is only one of many problems" says Kalff. "The important thing is following up on people who appear to have abused their privilege."

MAUT Legal Officer Joseph-John Varga says MAUT chose to create a hearing process to promote "natural justice" and "procedural equity."

According to McGowan, MAUT was most concerned about "procedures surrounding the wrongly accused. They were worried about the presumption of guilt. They don't seem to understand that administrative law works differently than criminal law."

He adds, "The same case can be made for a graduate student caught plagiarising, but we still have a policy for plagiarism."

Wrongful accusations also concerned McGill lawyers, who wanted to protect the university from defamation charges.

Under the new system, a student reporting sexual harassment will have two assessors assigned to the case: one to investigate, the other to adjudicate. The latter will encourage dialogue between the student and the professor.

If the conflict remains unresolved, the student can file a formal complaint. If the assessors and the university president find the professor guilty, a detailed appeals process can ensue, including a private hearing.

While this process is more complainant-friendly, assessors are still professors named by the principal who receive no training whatsoever.

Dutrizac believes that the changes "show the university is trying to improve itself." However, she asserts, "We are incredibly far behind. Other universities have a huge administrative staff to deal exclusively with [sexual violence]."

Students who have experienced sexual violence or think they may have can contact Legal Information, the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Students' Society, or the ombudsperson for the university, Estelle Hopmeyer. These sources will be unbiased, supportive and knowledgeable about university procedures.

EVENTS

MONDAY, SEPT. 16

The McGill Debating Union holds first meeting, show round in Shatner 302 at 6 p.m. All debaters invited.

The Student's Food Bank general meeting, 6hoo p.m.,Montreal University (Pavillon Jean Brilant)Sociology Dept., room 5097.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 17

YMCA offering course "Drive With Confidence."More info./register call 866-9941 ext.219.

LBGTM's coordnating meeting tonight, 19h00, Shatner 432. Elections held tonight.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18

Le Frigo Vert-Concordia's student run, non-profit, natural foods store volunteer meeting for people interested in cooking, making sandwiches, publicity,Meeting 7 p.m., 2130 Mackay.

LBGTM's bisexual discussion group women & men17:30, Shatner 429.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19

LBGTM's women's discussioin group. 18:30, Shatner 429.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20

McGill Taiwanese Students' Association discussion group. Topic: "Taiwanese Academic Selectionism". Meet at Roddick Gate, 6:45 p.m.

LBGTM's coming out group for women &men. 17:30, UTC basement (3521 University). Don't be afraid to come; everyone else is in the same situation.

LBGTM's general discussion group. 19:00, UTC basement, 3521 University.

LBGTM & UQAM host Student Night at Sky Pub. Drink Specials for students.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21

LBGTM: Queer Pub Crawl. Come out,meet new people,tour Montreal's Queer bars. Meet 20:00 Shatner steps. More info:398-6822.

ONGOING AND BEYOND

The Siamsa School of Irish Music sponsoring fundraiser"Irish Ceili Dance" September 28, 8:00 p.m., Royal canadian Legion Hall More information:484-7192.

Literacy partners of Quebec seeking volunteers. More info.931-8731 Ext. 1413.

Tel-Aide seeking volunteers More info:935-1105.

daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centré, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): $4.60 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, $4.05 per day. General Public: $5.75 per day, or $4.90 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST (7%) or PST (6.5%). Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over $20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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V O L U N T E E R S

NCJW Centre Yeladim- Volunteers needed Tues & Thurs 3 to 7 to help in homework supervision & activities, for children 6 to 10 yrs. old. Contact Leigh 486-1518.

WELCOME TO QPIRG MEETING!

Wednesday, September 18
Shatner 302, 6:00pm

A general overview of QPIRG's mandate will be followed by a description of each of our working groups. The working group coordinators will elaborate on their plans for the year, and will explain how volunteers can get involved!

Some of the issues that our groups will be working on:

- consumer awareness and corporate responsibility
- waste management, including a pilot door-to-door recycling program
- developing an internship program for students to get involved in community economic development initiatives
- how the privatization of McGill will affect diversity on campus
- educating consumers about the benefits of "fair-trade" coffee
- alternatives to the standard education system
- organic food coop

ALL NEW AND RETURNING VOLUNTEERS MUST ATTEND!

QPIRG-McGill is a student-funded and student-directed organization that works on environmental and social change issues on campus and in the community. All McGill undergrad and grad students are members of QPIRG. All are welcome to attend.

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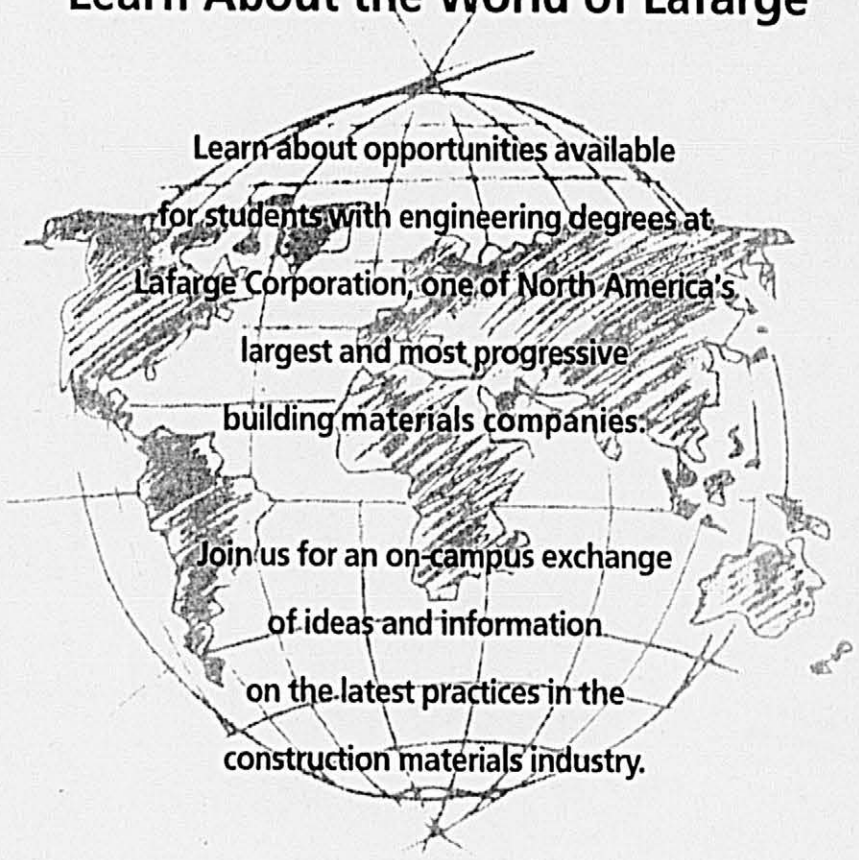

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Assembly Hall, MI, 3640 University Street, Montreal

5:00 p.m.

Professor John Shearer Kelly
Chair, Department of Pharmacology
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McIntyre Medical Sciences Building
Martin Amphitheatre, 6th Floor, 3655 Drummond Street, Montreal

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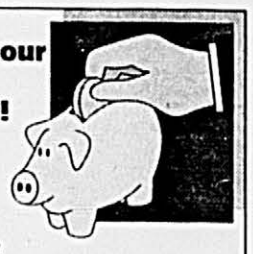

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